

Letter to my Prime Minister

01.01.2020

Dear Mr Morrison,

Today I stand by the smouldering ruins of my beautiful home on the NSW South Wales South Coast. It is New Year's Day 2020 and climate change has suddenly become very personal for me.

You have said you understand my grief. My fervent hope is that your God grants you the humility to admit that you do not understand me at all. You have stood by as members of your Party have insulted, belittled and ignored me when I urged you and your predecessors to take climate change more seriously.

You took no action when my deputy Prime Minister called me a raving lunatic when I dared to link the bushfire emergency to climate change. By your silence you are complicit. May your God grant you the wisdom to understand that my rage at you and your predecessors is an entirely rational response to a set of present and oncoming UNnatural disasters from which you have failed to protect me.

You have said you understand my suffering. My heartfelt desire is that your God grants you the ability to see how hollow and insincere that feels to me when you (and Labor) continue to promote the thermal coal industry which is fanning the flames of intense suffering of humans and animals worldwide. Australian coal is out there in the world being burnt every day and night. Please Mr Morrison, if only for God's sake, join the dots.

If you come to console me in my time of grief, I will not shake your hand until you and your colleagues promise to refuse the tainted donations from all fossil fuel companies. I would dearly like to be consoled by you but I am choking on the hypocrisy of your actions. You will not earn my respect until you and your colleagues dare to take the Australian public on a journey to transition away from coal mining and export just as tobacco farmers in the US transitioned away from their industry when the link between cigarettes and cancer become public.

I have been petitioning, emailing and calling you and your colleagues for over a decade that to stabilise our climate we have to leave Australian coal underground and unburnt. When I have tried to say that by carefully and compassionately winding back the coal industry we can be a shining example to other countries you have ridiculed me and proudly paraded a lump of coal in Parliament. When I marched with 100,000's of other intelligent and rational citizens including children in climate change rallies you have ignored and even castigated me. Indeed, on the world stage you have proudly exploited dubious accounting practices to seemingly minimise my country's carbon emissions. Shirking responsibility like that is not the Australian way.

And now, as long predicted, a massive bushfire is sweeping Australia. Like thousands of others I stare at the smoking rubble that was once my family home. I am 2 parts shattered and 3 parts enraged. So, don't tell me you understand me. You and your colleagues only understand your own limited narratives. Again, may your God grant you that elusive quality of humility that you may all hang your heads in shame. But may you also be granted the courage to FINALLY act in accordance with the science for the sake of us all including our unborn grandchildren.

May YOUR home remain standing.

Sincerely,

Nick Hopkins

Malua Bay

Eurobodalla Greens